GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6444
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
TOLERANCE LIMITS FOR FOOD ITEMS
BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether specific Insecticide and Pesticide tolerance limits for different Food items prescribed in Part XIV of PFA Rules are in line with the current tolerance limits prescribed by the European Union/FDA in US/WHO etc.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the Government are likely to bring tolerance limits to current tolerance limits prescribed by the European Union?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(c): The maximum tolerance limits for various pesticides for different food items are prescribed based on the nature of their use upon different crops, taking into consideration their toxicity, accepted daily intake (ADI), post harvest interval (PHI), food consumption pattern and average body weight of population, which is specific to a country. As such, the tolerance limits prescribed for different pesticides by different countries need not necessarily be the same.

The tolerance limits prescribed for different pesticides for different food Crops under Part XIV of PFA Rules are in the process of harmonization with that of the maximum residue limits (MRLs) notified by Codex, wherever applicable.